Abbeville County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
   - Keep the best in Abbeville
   - Stretch our economy
   - Jobs- new and keeping old ones
   - Revenue coming to county, school
   - Better industries
   - Opportunities for graduating seniors
   - Attract more people to love, shop, work
   - Keeping folks at home to work, live
   - Quality work force
   - Improved quality of life
   - Achievement has an impact (total) on our community. (economic and social)
   - Quality education leads to quality community which supports quality education
   - The community will change with positive change

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?**
   (Strengths & Challenges)
   - Increased parent support and involvement
   - Reach children at birth
   - Year-round school
   - Focus and coordinate current local resources
   - Increased early childhood intervention programs
   - More parenting programs
   - Better understanding of diversity
   - Continued staff development
   - Recreational after school programs- YMCA, Boys Club etc.
   - Higher expectations for students
   - More State Money for full-day 4-Year-Old Program and for Teachers and Facilities
   - Greater sense of urgency to educate students
   - Leave excuses behind
   - Goal 4-digit SAT score
   - Stay focused on district goals
   - Parent accountability
   - Inverse relationship between student promotion and parent participation
   - Change students' perceptions (athletics vs. academics)
   - Create team spirit for achieving academic success
   - Need for more mentors in outer schools (schools outside of the city)
   - Focus on teacher quality
   - Teacher-student ratio- keep low
   - Reduce paperwork for teachers
   - Assistance for teachers to allow more teaching time- assistants, more pay, TIME
   Strengths:
   - Milliken Mentors- great support
   - Strength- 4K programs, some after school programs
   Challenges:
   - Where we are: Average

- Raising Expectation level of community
- Success begins with parents/ guardians- when not present look for all alternatives
- A lot of us don't know how to help/ change (parents/community)
- Get ideas from the top states and put them to work in the schools and community
- Strengthen school- strong mentor program
- Schools/ teachers give list of suggestions to help student achievement- follow up on it

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
   - Business partnerships with schools
   - Parent support through PTO
   - Mentoring, shadowing
   - After school programs
   - Early childhood programs like First Steps and Project Success
   - Lander, Erskine supply student teachers
   - Some churches doing after school programs
   - Sheriff Resource Officers, DARE in schools
   - Transportation provided for programs
   - Technical education available
   - Better scholarships for adult learners

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
   - Resources for early childhood community centers
   - Raise level of knowledge among community leaders
   - Accountability should begin with parents
   - Teach children that education is valuable
   - Work plans allow time for parents to be involved
   - Volunteer to mentor
   - Set education as priority in community
   - Parents help with homework/ outside help with homework
   - Send students to school clean and rested
   - Parent report cards from school/ to school
   - Educate young adults to reduce unwed mothers